

the children myself, and I know. Sometimes their words are like sweet flowers to me. That's when the good fairies, Love, Sunny Temper and Unselfishness have been working in the gardens of my children's hearts. But sometimes the words change and make my poor heart sick. Then I know that Bad Temper, Witch Crosspatch and Sprite Selfishness have been at work. Their magic is ugly, and I know it well.

"That's just a Sunday-school lesson," said Arthur.

"Isn't it true?" asked mamma.

"Too true, I guess," he admitted.

"Yes," said Elsie, "it's truer than these stories. Come on, I'll play tennis Arthur!"—*Christian Observer*.

A BORN GENTLEMAN

The other day I heard a boy who was invited with his mother out to dinner. At the table he sat some distance from his mother, and a lady next to him offered to help him.

"Let me cut your steak for you," he said, "if I can cut it the way you like it."

"Thank you," said the boy. "I shall like it the way you cut it, even if you don't cut it the way I like it."—*The Sunbeam*.

Our Young People

CHRIST'S MISSION ON EARTH

John 10:7-18

Topic for June 5

There is a saying by Andrew Murray which deserves to be repeated until its meaning is fully grasped. It is this: "A Christian's growth in grace depends upon his realizing what Christ is to him." If we regard him as one to be admired there will be found in him things to admire. If we accept him as a Savior from sin he will be that to us. If we accept him as sanctifier he will be that. If we accept him as all in all he will be all in all to us. The world but vaguely realizes his mission in the world and does not care. "Ye will not," said Christ, "come unto me that ye might have life." It is the same today. Ruskin says, "Men do not disbelieve their Christ; they sell him." The greed of gain, the giddy round of pleasure, the inward gaze of selfishness, all prevent that calm and constant fellowship with him which works the transformation of life called life eternal, John 17:3.

The world judges the mission of Christ as it is reflected in the lives of his followers. Their devotion, alas! is on the average so shallow and unfruitful that the life-giving vine is rejected on account of the barren branches which have only an apparent union with the vine. If this lesson will aid in getting a large and firm view of Christ's mission it will react in lives more truly re-enacting that mission.

The Testimony of Scripture on the Mission of Christ.

- 1 His mission as prophesied, Isa. 61:1-3; Luke 4:18
- 2 He came to destroy the works of the devil, I John 3:8.
- 3 To do the Father's will, John 6:38; Heb. 10:7.
- 4 To fulfill the law, Matt. 5:17.
- 5 To save life, Luke 9:56; John 12:47; I Tim. 1:15.
- 6 To seek the lost, Luke 19:10; Mark 2:17; Luke 5:32.
- 7 To take away excuse for sin, John 15:22.
- 8 To give life, John 5:40; John 10:10.
- 9 To give light, John 12:46.
- 10 To give rest, Matt. 11:29.

- 11 To give witness to the truth, John 1:7; John 18:37.
- 12 To bring grace and truth, John 1:17.
- 13 To manifest the Father, John 17:6; I Tim. 3:16.
- 14 To give sanctification, John 17:19.
- 15 To give companionship, John 14:23; Rev. 3:20.

For Testimonies—Jesus Helps

- 16 To keep from sin, I John 5:4, 5; John 16:33.
- 17 To love everybody, John 13:34, 35.
- 18 To help everybody, Acts 10:38.
- 19 In sickness, Matt. 8:17; Heb. 4:15.
- 20 In turning from sin, I John 1:9.
- 21 In trouble, Matt. 11:28, 29.
- 22 To be happy, John 14:27 and 15:11.
- 23 To be humble, John 13:16.
- 24 To be like him, I Peter 2:21, 23.

Topics for Discussion.

- 1 The mission of Christ's death, I Peter 2:24.
- 2 The mission of his life, Rom. 5:10.
- 3 The mission of his presence now, Matt. 28:20.
- 4 How receive the benefit of his death, John 11:25.
- 5 " " " " life, John 1:1-7.
- 6 " " " " presence now, Jno. 14:23; Rev. 3:20.
- 7 Christ's mission our mission, John 20:21; John 8:12 with Matt. 5:14.

C. F. YODER.

The Christian Life

PRAYER MEETING TOPICS

THE PROPHETS—NAHUM

I. Personal History

- a. "The Elkoshite,"—a native of Elkosh a small village of Galilee, probably.
1. This is all we know of his personal history.

II. Occasion of the Prophecy

- a. Manasseh was king of Judah.
- b. Sargon, a previous king of Ninevah had captured Samaria some fifty years previous.
- c. Sennacherib had invaded Judah about 40 years before and his army had been destroyed by God. Is. 37:36, 37.
- d. About 20 years before this the successor of Sennacherib, Esarhaddon had carried Manasseh a captive to Babylon.
- e. The character of the Assyrians were cruel and vicious. See "Bible Helps" on Nahum.
- f. The fortunes of Ninevah, the capital of Assyria, were waning.
- g. The Assyrians had offended all morals and all religious scruples and deserved punishment from God.
- h. Nahum's firm faith in God's righteousness and moral government led him to see that Ninevah could not stand.

Hungry for a Hand-Shake

Union Gospel News.

He was sitting in a park. He looked downhearted and despondent. His clothes were dusty, but not ragged. There was a look of despair on his boyish face—almost a look of desperation. Some one noticing his despondent look, sat down by him, saying:

"I judge you are a stranger in the city; I want to shake hands with you."

Only a word, you see, but a bright look came into the young man's face, and he eagerly held out his hand.

"O," he said, "I am so hungry for a hand-shake. I left my home about a week ago with the prayers and best wishes of my friends. Times were hard, and it seemed necessary for me to go into the world to make a living for myself. I suppose there was lots of work for me in this city, but I don't think there is anything, and I am discouraged."

He bit his lip hard as he said this, and his mouth quivered.

"I will try again," he went on to say, "since some one cares enough for me to shake hands with me."

That handshake was the beginning of his success. Downhearted and discouraged before, feeling that there was no one who cared for him in a great city, his heart was made glad by that simple thing, a hand-shake, and he took courage, and soon found employment.

There are people on every side of us, perhaps not in these exact circumstances, but who are discouraged and depressed, who need a hand-shake, a friendly word, a kindly interest. As servants of that Christ who went about doing good, shall we give it?

Heart-Hunger

Selected

One who has the love of Christ to offer need never despair because the door of approach to any heart is fast shut. The shut heart has a friend of that same Christ within it, and the friend is always trying to let the Master in. Some of us have neglected to labor for certain groups of people because they seemed unapproachable. May the young Christians be more courageous and hopeful than their elders! In the instance cited below, the writer found hearts already conquered for Christ when he looked only for resistance:

"In my ministry in a new church," writes a pastor, "I saw one evening a lady who seemed very attentive to the servicess. I spoke to her, as I did to others, as she was going out, and discovered that she was French. She seemed to hesitate a little, and I took courage and asked her to remain till I had shaken hands with the rest. I was rather surprised that she accepted my invitation, and sat down to wait for me.

"I began to speak of her evident attention during the service, when she at once told me her history. She was a Catholic, but for some time had neglected her own church. She was very intelligent and sensitive in conscience, and, after some reading and thinking, had begun to question things which she had been taught in childhood; then she feared she was committing sin, and had confessed her doubts and submitted to a penance. Instead of quieting her mind, however, the penance left her in real sorrow for sin. She began to that feelshe was a sinner in a far different sense than before. She knew that she needed pardon and help from somewhere, and went again to her priest. He heard her kindly, but was a poor physician for such a soul. He again gave her a pen-